

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the following paragraph into page 1 the Specification:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] The present application is a 35 U.S.C. 371 national stage entry of International Patent Application No. PCT/JP2005/005599, filed March 18, 2005, which claims priority from Japanese Patent Application No. JP 2004-081935, filed March 22, 2004, the contents of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety.

On page 33, paragraph number 0125, please make the following change:

[0001] Subsequently, a blackish brown powder was obtained by the procedure of Table Example 1.

On page 33, paragraph number 0128, which continues onto page 34, please make the following change:

[0002] A mixed salt solution containing ~~LaCoPd~~ LaFeCoPd was prepared by dissolving and mixing homogeneously the above components in 200 mL of ion-exchange water. Subsequently, a powder was obtained by the same procedure of Example 5.